

Agribusiness Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
APRIL 2022

What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:



2,115 Employers



44,436 Workers



\$49,041 Average Wage

Why Have a Career in Agribusiness?

Agribusiness represents 1.95 percent of total private sector employment in Missouri, employing more than 44,000 workers in over 2,000 businesses in 2020. Employment in Agribusiness has been steadily growing, increasing an average of 1.6 percent per year from 2015 to 2020. Missouri has high employment concentrations in Agribusiness, particularly in Agriculture Chemical Manufacturing, Dairy Product Manufacturing, and Grain & Oilseed Milling. Wages in Agribusiness averaged \$49,041 in 2020, lower than the \$54,801 state average for all industries.

A variety of careers are possible in fields such as Crop & Animal Production, Research & Development, Logging, and Business Operations & Sales.

Know the Basics

Agribusiness is defined as the group of industries dealing with agricultural products and services required in farming and food production. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability are important in all industries and occupations, including Agribusiness occupations.

Skills needed for Success:

Agribusiness is a rapidly evolving industry. Understanding environmental impact on crops and livestock, as well as, keeping up with new research in crop, water, and soil management is important. Safety issues and quality control are also a critical part of this industry, so attention to detail and continuous learning are necessary.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

Tyson Foods Incorporated
MFA Incorporated
Smithfield Foods
Bunge
Land O' Lakes



Crop & Animal Production

Research & Development

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Slaughterers & Meat Packers
Entry: \$33,650; Average: \$33,650

Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators
Entry: \$27,450; Average: \$39,670

Conveyor Operators & Tenders
Entry: \$28,210; Average: \$32,710

Certificates: Forklift Operator Safety Training

Weighers, Measurers, Checkers, & Samplers, Recordkeeping
Entry: \$31,920; Average: \$39,340

Certificates: American Society for Quality (ASQ), Certified Quality Auditor

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Agricultural Equipment Operators
Entry: \$27,720; Average: \$34,250

Farmers, Ranchers, & Other Agricultural Mgrs.
Entry: \$50,230; Average: \$65,410

Farm Labor Contractors
Entry: N/A; Average: N/A

Degrees: Agricultural Business & Management

Agricultural & Food Science Technicians
Entry: \$35,430; Average: \$48,550

Occupational Health & Safety Technicians
Entry: \$39,000; Average: \$59,240

Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers
Entry: \$35,430; Average: \$47,030

Degrees: Chemistry, Environmental Health
Certificates: American Society for Quality (ASQ), Certified Quality Auditor

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Industrial Production Managers
Entry: \$80,440; Average: \$109,430

Agricultural Inspectors
Entry: \$32,620; Average: \$41,600

Degrees: Engineering, Business Administration and Management

Food Scientists & Technologists
Entry: \$50,330; Average: \$82,020

Industrial Engineers
Entry: \$69,380; Average: \$89,970

Soil & Plant Scientists
Entry: \$36,790; Average: \$52,720

Degrees: Agriculture, Food Science, Engineering, Horticultural Science

Sources:

EMSI Burning Glass Technologies Labor/Insight™ tool
Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse
2020 Occupational Employment Survey Wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Top employers data is based on 2021 online job ads



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Logging

Business Operations & Sales

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand
Entry: \$26,040; Average: \$33,360

Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators
Entry: \$30,710; Average: \$39,670

Certificates: Forklift Operator Safety Training

Driver/Sales Workers
Entry: \$20,660; Average: \$29,740

Shipping, Receiving, & Traffic Clerks
Entry: \$25,670; Average: \$34,150

Office Clerks, General
Entry: \$25,010; Average: \$36,060

Certificates: Business Operations Certificates

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
Entry: \$37,170; Average: \$48,230

Fallers
Entry: N/A; Average: N/A

Logging Equipment Operators
Entry: \$27,090; Average: \$39,870

Certificates: Commercial Driver's License, Construction/Heavy Equipment/Earthmoving Equipment Operation

Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing
Entry: \$42,440; Average: \$71,670

Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks
Entry: \$32,510; Average: \$41,320

Transportation, Storage, & Distribution Managers
Entry: \$74,360; Average: \$100,620

Degrees: Accounting Technology/Technician, Logistics, Materials, and Supply Chain Management
Certificates: QuickBooks

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Foresters
Entry: \$44,120; Average: \$53,010

Accountants & Auditors
Entry: \$50,310; Average: \$71,130

Buyers & Purchasing Agents, Farm Products
Entry: \$44,980; Average: \$65,710

Marketing Managers
Entry: \$93,100; Average: \$138,250

Degrees: Forestry, Natural Resources/Conservation

Degrees: Accounting, Finance, Marketing
Certificates: Certified Professional Public Buyer

Sources:

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